IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 57 as follows:

5   1. – 56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) A method of ~~reliably transmitting data~~ <u>protecting symbol types</u> <u>transmitted</u> across a communication medium comprising:

encoding a symbol comprising a plurality of bits, wherein a most significant bit and a least significant bit of said symbol indicate at least a type of said symbol; and

10   transmitting the symbol across the communication medium;

wherein said encoding ~~increases the reliability of said transmitting data~~ <u>protects symbol</u> <u>types, as a single byte error cannot affect both said most significant bit and said least significant</u> <u>bit of said symbol.</u>

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 57, wherein the symbol is encoded with
15   said most significant bit identical to said least significant bit.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the symbol consists of eight bits.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein the symbol type corresponds to either a first type or a second type.

20   61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein if said most significant bit and said least significant bit both comprise a high bit, the symbol type corresponds to one of the first and second type, and if the most significant bit and the least significant bit of the symbol both comprise a low bit, the symbol type corresponds to the other of the first and second types.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said first type comprises a
25   data symbol, and said second type comprises a non-data symbol.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein a bit adjacent to the most significant bit of said symbol and a bit adjacent to the least significant bit of said symbol are adapted to indicate a symbol subtype.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said symbol subtype
30   comprises one of (i) a control symbol, or (ii) an arbitration request symbol.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein at least five bits of said symbol are adapted to indicate a symbol subtype, said at least five bits not including said most significant bit and said least significant bit.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said communication medium comprises a bus compliant with a high-speed serialized bus protocol.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said high-speed serialized bus protocol comprises at least one of the IEEE Std. 1394b and 1394c standards.

68. (Previously presented) A computerized apparatus for transmitting data across a communication medium, said apparatus comprising:

a first module to encode a symbol comprising a plurality of bits, wherein the first module indicates a type of said symbol by setting or resetting both a most significant bit and a least significant bit of said symbol; and

a second module to transmit the encoded symbol across the communication medium.

69. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the symbol type corresponds to either a first type or a second type;

wherein if the most significant bit and the least significant bit of the symbol are both set, the symbol type corresponds to the first type, and if the most significant bit and the least significant bit of the symbol are both reset, the symbol type corresponds to the second type.

70. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein a bit adjacent to the most significant bit of said symbol and a bit adjacent to the least significant bit of said symbol indicate a symbol subtype.

71. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein a plurality of bits of said symbol are adapted to indicate a symbol subtype, said plurality of bits not including the most significant bit and the least significant bit of said symbol.

72. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein said communication medium comprises a bus compliant with a high-speed serialized bus protocol.

73. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein said high-speed serialized bus protocol comprises at least one of the IEEE Std.1394b and 1394c standards.

74. – 119. (Canceled)